

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An opening/closing type portable information terminal equipped with a display portion housing having a display portion and an operating portion housing having an operating portion, characterized in that an end portion of said display portion housing is linked to an end portion of said operating portion housing by a rotating mechanism under ~~a the~~ state that ~~a the~~ face of the display portion of said display portion housing is maintained to orient in ~~a the~~ same side as ~~a the~~ face of the operating portion of said operating portion housing so that said display portion housing is rotatable relative to said operating portion housing around the rotational axis of said rotating mechanism and so that said display portion housing swings through an arc having a tangent that is substantially parallel to the face of the operating portion at a closed position.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The opening/closing type portable information terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein said rotating mechanism comprises a link member that is designed in ~~a the~~ form of a cylinder having a cavity portion therein and provided with guide portions projecting outwardly at ~~the~~ upper and lower portions thereof, and said upper and lower guide portions are embedded in said display portion housing and said operating portion housing while pressed against said display portion housing and said operating portion housing.

Claim 3. (Original) The opening/closing type portable information terminal as claimed in claim 2, wherein a communication cable for electrically connecting circuits located in said

display portion housing to circuits located in said operating portion housing passes through said cavity portion of said rotating mechanism.

Claim 4. (Original) The opening/closing type portable information terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein said rotating mechanism is disposed while inclined with respect to the face of said operating portion, and a predetermined angle is kept between the face of said display portion and the face of said operating portion under the state that said display portion housing and said operating portion housing are opened.

Claim 5. (Original) The opening/closing type portable information terminal as claimed in claim 2, wherein one of said upper and lower guide portions of said link member are fixed to any one of said display portion housing and said operating portion housing.

Claim 6. (Original) The opening/closing type portable information terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein a spring is provided around said rotating mechanism to press said display portion housing and said operating portion housing outwardly.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The opening/closing type portable information terminal as claimed in claim 1, wherein said display portion housing is provided with operating keys which are operable under a ~~the~~ state that said display portion housing and said operating portion housing are closed.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) An opening/closing type portable information terminal, comprising:

a display portion housing having a display portion;

an operating portion housing having an operating portion; and

a mechanism for rotating said display portion housing relative to said operating portion housing ~~from between~~ a closed state in which said display portion housing is disposed so as to cover said operating portion through an arc to ~~and~~ an open state in which said display portion housing is disposed so as not to cover said operating portion, wherein an end portion of said display portion housing and an end portion of said operating portion housing are rotatably connected to each other by said mechanism for rotating in such a manner that a face of said display portion is oriented in the same side as a face of said operating portion at both said closed state and said open state and so that a tangent of the arc through which the display portion rotates includes a tangent that is substantially parallel to the face of the operating portion at a closed position.

Claim 9. (New) A portable information terminal, comprising:

a display portion; and

an operating portion rotatably attached to the display portion such that the display portion rotates through an arc that has a tangent that is substantially parallel to a face of the operating portion at a closed position.

Claim 10. (New) The terminal of claim 9, further comprising a link member that rotatably attaches the operating portion to the display portion, wherein the link member comprises:

a cylinder having a cavity portion;

an upper guide portion projecting outwardly at an upper end of the cylinder; and

a lower guide portion projecting outwardly at a lower end of the cylinder.

Claim 11. (New) The terminal of claim 10, wherein one of the upper guide portion and the lower guide portion is embedded in the operating portion and the other of the upper guide portion and the lower guide portion is embedded in the display portion.

Claim 12. (New) The terminal of claim 10, wherein the link member further comprises a spring that biases the display portion away from the operating portion at the link member.

Claim 13. (New) The terminal of claim 9, wherein the operating portion comprises an inclined surface that forms an obtuse angle with the face of the operating portion and wherein the axis of rotation is substantially perpendicular to the inclined surface.

Claim 14. (New) The terminal of claim 9, wherein a face of the display portion forms a predetermined angle with the face of the operation portion at a fully open position.

Claim 15. (New) The terminal of claim 14, wherein the predetermined angle is within the range of about 110 to 180 degrees.

Claim 16. (New) The terminal of claim 15, wherein the predetermined angle is within the range of about 130 to 170 degrees.

Claim 17. (New) The terminal of claim 14, wherein the operating portion comprises an inclined surface that is inclined at an angle of $(180 - \text{predetermined angle})/2$ with respect to the face of the operating portion.

Claim 18. (New) The terminal of claim 9, wherein the display portion comprises a liquid crystal display on a surface that faces outwardly when the terminal is in a closed position.

Claim 19. (New) The terminal of claim 18, wherein the display portion comprises operating keys on the surface that faces outwardly when the terminal is in the closed position.

Claim 20. (New) The terminal of claim 9, wherein the rotation between the display portion and the operating portion is limited to approximately 180 degrees.

Claim 21. (New) The terminal of claim 20, further comprising a link member that comprises:

- a cylinder having a cavity portion;
- an upper guide portion projecting outwardly at an upper end of the cylinder and having a groove formed on an outer periphery of the upper guide portion that extends slightly greater than 180 degrees around the rotational axis; and
- a lower guide portion projecting outwardly at a lower end of the cylinder.

Claim 22. (New) The terminal of claim 21, wherein one of the display portion and the operating portion comprises a projection that engages the groove and wherein the cylinder is fixed to the other one of the display portion and the operating portion.